



PUBLIC NOTICE

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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NEW AGREEMENTS WITH MEXICO

The United States and Mexico have begun implementation of three new broadcasting agreements: they include an Expanded AM Band Agreement, a new FM Agreement and a Multi-Point Distribution Services (MDS) Agreement. All of the Agreements become effective immediately.

The Expanded AM Band Agreement establishes a procedure for the assignment of AM broadcasting stations on the ten channels in the 1605-1705 kHz frequency band within a distance of 450 kilometers from the common border. These frequencies had not been previously designated for broadcasting. Stations that are derived from allotments will be permitted maximum powers of 10 kilowatts day and 1 kilowatt night. Other operations, as they are made available, will be limited to a maximum power of 1 kilowatt day and night.

The new FM Agreement replaces the U.S.- Mexico FM Agreement of 1972. It affects all FM stations and proposals within 320 km of the U.S-Mexican border. The technical criteria adopted under this new Agreement offer additional flexibility over those which were specified in the existing 1972 Agreement and were negotiated in an effort to bring them more in line with the current domestic rules. Because of the additional intermediate station classifications, the new FM Agreement will afford numerous U.S. FM stations in the border area, including those short-spaced to Mexican FM stations, the opportunity to upgrade their facilities.

The MDS Agreement establishes a procedure for the assignment of frequencies and use of the 2500-2686 MHz frequency band for point to multi-point distribution services within 80 km on each side of the common border. A station will not require coordination with the other administration if the power flux density (PFD) of its signal does not exceed -70dBW/sq m at the border and the proper polarization and frequency offset is observed although notification of the operating parameters of such station is still required.

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A station will require prior coordination if the PFD of its signal exceeds -70 dBW/sq m at the border or if its polarization or frequency offset is at odds with the conventions specified in the Agreement.

Copies of the Agreements may be obtained from the Commission's copy contractor. For further information, contact Larry Olson at (202) 254-3394.

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